

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 7638

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, CO

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: MEETING OF ASST. SECRETARY

LEWIS WITH COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON UN ISSUES.

1. SUMMARY. ASST. SECRETARY LEWIS, CHARGE DREXLER, AND POL COUNSELOR MET WITH COLOMBIAN FONMIN LIEVANO AND UNDERSECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FONSECA FOR ABOUT AN HOUR LATE AFTERNOON OF JULY 28 FOLLOWING VERY CORDIAL LUNCHEON WITH FONSECA AND OTHER KEY FONMIN OFFICIALS. DISCUSSION FOCUSED OF FIVE ISSUES: (1) ESRAEL/MIDDLE EAST, (2) KOREAN QUESTION, (3) TERRORISM, (4) PUERTO RICO, AND (5) ECOSOC AND US ILLICIT PAYMENTS PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

2. LIEVANO OPENED BY OBSERVING THAT, ALTHOUGH COURSE OF EVENTS IN THIS YEAR'S UNGA WAS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT, HE FORESAW THAT ISRAELI AND KOREAN QUESTIONS WOULD PROVIDE
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GREATIEST DEGREE OF ACRIMONY AND CONFRONTATION. THE MINISTER

EMPHASIZED COLOMBIA' FIRM ATTACHMENT TO ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO SURVIVAL AND SECURITY BUT REMARKED THAT COLOMBIA ALSO ADVOCATES THE RETURN BY ISRAEL OF THE TERRITORIES OCCUPIED SINCE THE 1967 WAR. HE FEARED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE ISRAELI RAID ON ENTEBBE (OF WHICH HE SPOKE ADMIRINGLY) MIGHT TEND TO DISPOSE THE ISRAELIS AGAINST ADOPTING A MORE FORTHCOMING STANCE WITH REGARD TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND TO THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, WHICH LIEVANO DESCRIBED AS CENTRAL TO ANY MID-EAST SOLUTION. HOWEVER, LEWIS AND FONMIN AGREED THAT NO LIKELY UNGA ACTION WOULD ADVANCE COURSE OF IMPLEMENTING SC 242 - AND THAT RENEWAL OF VENEVA TALKS HARD TO ACHIEVE UNTIL LEBANON SITUATION STABILIZED.

3. LEWIS DISCUSSED OMINOUS PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER UNGA ACTION ON ZIONIST-RACIST ISSUE AND THE RATIONAL FOR OUR POSITION. (COLOMBIA ABSTAINED ON RESOLUTION VOTE DURING THE 1975 UNGA.)

4. LIEVANO SAID THAT COLOMBIA WOULD TRY TO BE OF ASSISTANCE IN THIS REGARD, ALTHOUGH HE MADE NO DIRECT STATEMENT AS TO HOW COLOMBIA WOULD VOTE.

5. ON KOREAN QUESTION, LEWIS REVIEWED U.S. POSITION AND PROPOSALS IN THE SECRETARY'S SEATTLE SPEECH. LIEVANO DESCRIBED COLOMBIA'S LONG-STANDING INTEREST IN KOREA DATING FROM COLOMBIA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE KOREAN WAR. HE FULLY AGREED WITH U.S. APPROACH TO THE KOREAN QUESTION OUTLINED IN THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS, AND PROMISED COLOMBIA'S FULL SUPPORT.

6. LEWIS STRESSED TO LIEVANO THAT PUERTO RICAN ISSUE WAS VERY SENSITIVE INTERNAL MATTER FOR U.S. ANDNUHAT, IF ISSUE WERE TO BECOME PROMINENT IN THE UNGA, IT WOULD PRODUCE SHARP DYCONFRONTATION. HE REVIEWED HISTORY OF U.N. HANDLING OF QUESTION, AND STRESSED "SPOILING ROLE" BEING PLAYED BY CUBANS. LIEVANO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD PUERTO RICAN SITUATION AND SHARED OUR VIEW. HOWEVER, HE REFERRED IN VAGUE TERMS TO A CURRENT "POLITICAL DISPUTE" BETWEEN PUERTO RICO AND U.S., THE DETAILS OF WHICH HE DID NOT DESCRIBE BUT WHICH, HE SAID, COULD OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR CUBAN EXPLOITATION OF ISSUE AT UNGA. LIEVANO SAID HIS STRONG ADVICE TO THE PUERTO RICAN CONFIDENTIAL

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AUTHORITIES ANDNHO USG WOULD BE TO AVOID ANY APPEARANCE OF DISAGREEMENT AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER THE UNGA. LIEVANO REPEATED THIS ADVICE AT END OF MEETING.

7. LEWIS REVIEWED U.S. POSITION ON TERRORISM AND OUR ASSESSMENT THAT CHANCES OF OBTAINING A USEFUL AMB-TERRORIST RESOLUTION AT UNGA LAY IN FOCUSING ON SOME SPECIFIC ACTIVITY, I.E. HIJACKING, RIGHTS OF HOSTAGES, ETC. RATHER THAN BROAD CONCEPT

OF TERRORISM PER SE. LIEVANO AGREED WITH THIS STRATEGY, AND DESCRIBED COLOMBIAN AND VENEZUELAN INTENTIONS TO PRESENT AN ANTI-TERRORIST RESOLUTION OF THEIR OWN, THE DETAILS OF WHICH WERE STILL BEING WORKED OUT BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. (LEWIS SAID SUCH A RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY THE TWO COUNTRIES HAD GREAT MERIT AND EXPRESSED OUR DESIRE TO BE OF HELP IN WHATEVER WAY THE COLOMBIANS AND VENEZUELAN THOUGHT BEST. LEWIS SUGGESTED THAT U.S. AND COLOMBIAN U.N. MISSIONS CONSULT CLOSELY ON THIS, TO WHICH LIEVANO AGREED.) LEWIS EXPRESSED GREAT APPRECIATION TO LIEVANO FOR HIS ROLE IN PERSUADING PANAMA NOT TO VOTE WITH EAST EUROPEANS, NON-ALIGNED, AND AFRICANS ON THE ENTEBBE RAID.

8. LEWIS RAISED AT SOME LENGTH QUESTION OF COLOMBIAN SUPPORT FOR U.S. PROPOSAL AT ECOSOC ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS CONVENTION. LIEVANO SEEMED UNINFORMED ON ISSUE, BUT SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT RIGHT AWAY AND TRY TO BE HELPFUL.

9. MEETING ENDED WITH LEWIS STRESSING NEED FOR CLOSER CONSULTATION BETWEEN OUR U.N. MISSIONS DURING GA, TO WHICH LIEVANO GAVE STRONG ENDORSEMENT.

10. COMMENT. ATMOSPHERE OF MEETING WAS FRIENDLY AND BUSINESSLIKE. STRONG IDENTITY OF VIEWS ON NEARLY ALL ISSUES EMERGED. CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH COLOMBIA PERMREP BY USUN SHOULD PAY DIVIDENDS WITHIN LATIN AMERICAN GROUP.
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